

## Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 IGA-02 RSR-01 /085 W  
----- 052095

P R 261058 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 4314  
SECDEF WASHDC  
CINCPAC CP SMITH  
USSAG  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
DIA WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9895

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

STATE PASS AID

REF: A. PHNOM PENH 6270

B. BANGKOK 9722

1. CHARGE AND ECON/ COML COUNSELOR MADE INQUIRIES JUNE 25  
ABOUT RICE PROSPECTS AT APPROPRIATE RTG LEVELS. LY KIM  
HENG AND COUNSELOR HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT. NOW  
VERIFIED THAT AT MEETING REPORTED REFTEL B, RTG OFFICIALS  
PROMISED TO PROVIDE AMOUNTS STATED, NAMELY, 5,000 TONS  
NOW, 5,000 IN MID- JULY AND POSSIBLY 25,000 AFTER SECOND  
CROP HARVESTED. HOWEVER, LATE IN SAME DAY MINISTER OF  
COMMERCE DECIDED AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS STAFF TO  
EXPORT ONLY 5,000 TONS WITH ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS TO BE LEFT  
FOR SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATION AND CABINET DECISION.

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2. CHARGE INFORMED BY MFA THAT DEPFONMIN ACTIVELY WORKING TO REVERSE COMMERCE MINISTER'S ACTION BE SENDING STRONG MESSAGE TO PM. JUNE 26 SAME SOURCE IN MFA INFORMAL COUNSELOR THAT CABINET IN SESSION ALL DAY, BUT HAD NOT YET ACTED ON RICE FOR CAMBODIA ITEM BY MID- AFTERNOON. EXPECTED ACTION BEFORE SESSION CONCLUDED THAT DAY AND SEEMED CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUTCOME. LY KIM HENG INFORMED COUNSELOR THAT MINISTER OF COMMERCE HAD REFERRED TO CABINET DECISION WHETHER OR NOT TO EXPORT THE SECOND 5,000 TONS.

3. SAME DAY A DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE TOLD ECON/ COML COUNSLOR THAT THAILAND IN GRAVE RISK OF RICE SHORTAGE BY END OF YEAR IF THERE SHOULD BE DELAY IN HARVESTING OF REGULAR RICE CROP IF YIELD SHOULD BE REDUCED OF UNFAVORABLE WEATHER OR OTHER CAUSES. DECLARED THAT RTG WOULD NOT KNOW UNTIL AUGUST WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD HAVE RICE ENOUGH FOR BALANCE OF YEAR, EVEN THOUGH RICE SUPPLIES ADEQUATE AT PRESENT. SUGGESTED CAMBODIANS EAT PARBOILED RICE, OF WHICH THAILAND HAS SURPLUS.

3. DURING CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY PREVIOUS DAY IN SAME MINISTRY, COUNSELOR WAS TOLD THAT RTG WAS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF BUYING RICE FROM US TO ADD TO EXISTING RESERVES. WAS INFORMED US CROP HAD BEEN EXPORTED AND NOT LIKELY THAT SELLERS COULD BE FOUND EXCEPT FOR SMALL AMOUNTS OF SPECIALTY RICE.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT CABINET DECISION AS SOON AS KNOWN.  
MASTERS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980225  
**Subject:** RICE FOR CAMBODIA  
**TAGS:** EAID, EGEN, CB  
**To:** CINCPAC CP SMITH  
DIA WASHDC  
EA  
JCS WASHDC  
PHNOM PENH  
SAIGON  
SECSTATE WASHDC

USSAG

WASHDC

Type: TE

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